(b) The Task Force has been set up under the Chairmanship of one General Manager with five officers of Dy. GM level as members of the Task Force.

Objective of the Task Force is :

(i) to work out plans where maximum number of OB's can be implemented with minimum efforts;

(ii) to suggest ways to improve upon the fault repair services.

(c) Sir, Task Force has already started functioning w.e.f. 4.7.1997.

[English]

Construction of New Buildings

3634. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct new buildings of the railway stations in Assam during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Remodelling of station building at Rangiya has been taken up. Station buildings on new line between Guwahati Jogighopa have also been taken up.

Global Telecom Pact

3635. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for evolving a road map-on the global telecom pact and Information Technology Agreements (IIA);

(b) if so, the details of the commitment made as per I.T.A. with WTO and details of action initiated in this regard;

(c) whether FICC have submitted a memorandum to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(e) the details of action plan for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Repairing of Railway Tracks

3636. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of railway tracks between Manipuri and Farrukhabad and between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad are very dilapidated;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair/ renovate the above tracks;

(c) whether there is any proposal to electrify the above tracks;

(d) if so, the funds allocated therefor;

(e) whether there is any scheme for running of an Express train from Farrukhabad to Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Speed on Shikohabad-Mainpuri has been raised to 60 kmph after carrying out track works. For the balance length, renewal is being proposed in the future Works Programme depending on availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Private Courier Service

3637. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the negligence of the postal department Private Courier Service has made its position strong but the Postal charges of reliable courier service is higher and charges of some couriers out of them is many times higher as compared to the speed post due to which people use cheaper courier service but they are not reliable as a result of which people have to face lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, whether action is being taken to streamline the speed post service of the postal department; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Emergence of express communication needs all over the world is not due to the negligence of the Postal Department. The Speed Post Service is quite reliable and its rates are reasonable compared to other couriers. Postal Department has been focussing on the network development, technology input and business expansion of Speed Post in order to meet the express communication and distribution needs of the customers effectively. Its network & revenue is increasing consistently.